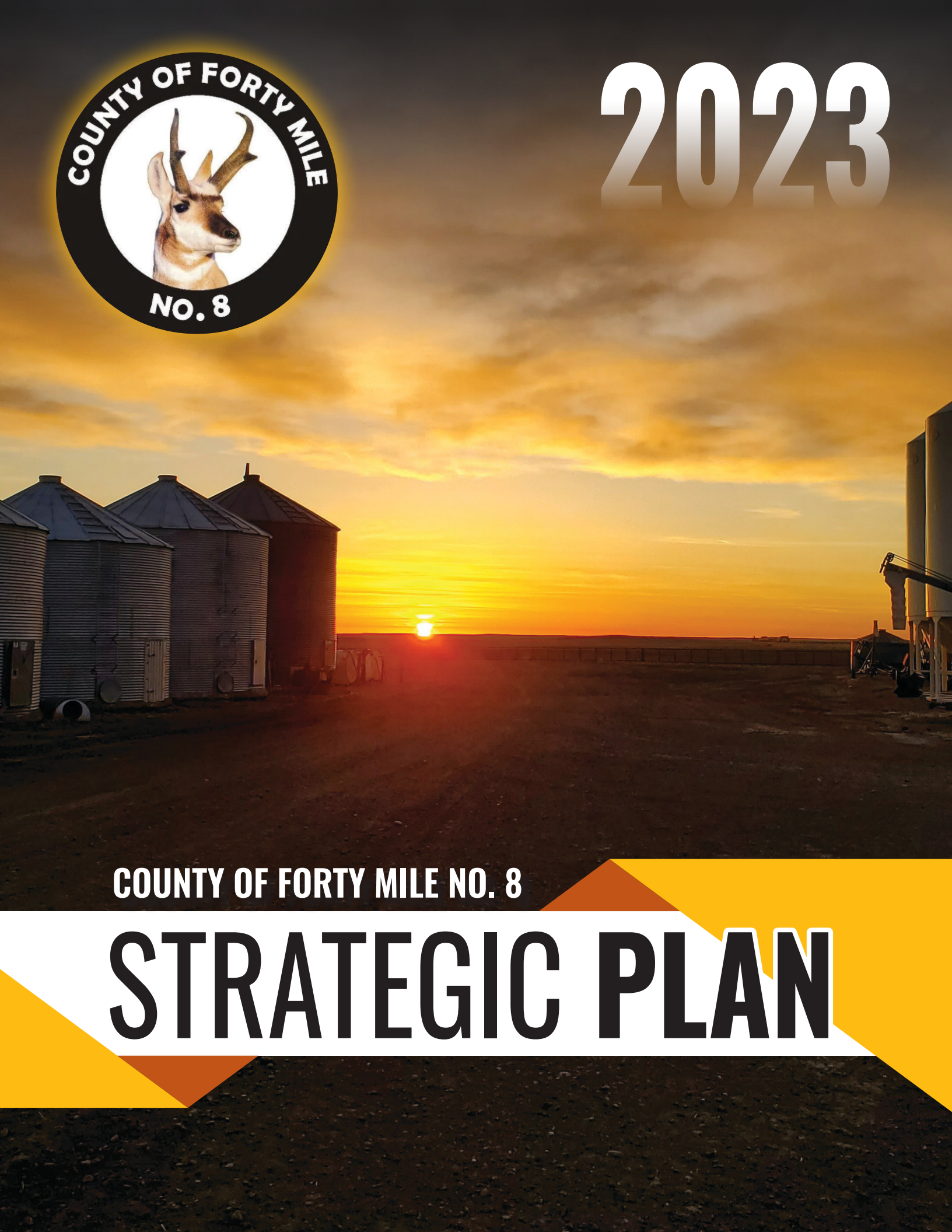

2023

COUNTY OF FORTY MILE NO. 8

STRATEGIC PLAN

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WHAT IS A STRATEGIC PLAN?

A FORMAL GUIDING DOCUMENT.

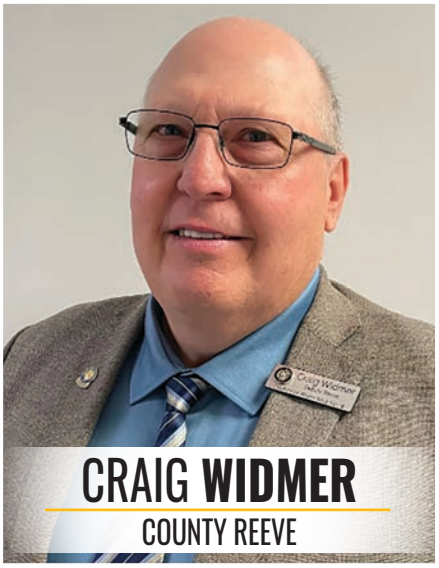
PURPOSE:

INTERNAL..... FORMAL PLAN TO GUIDE COUNCIL DECISION MAKING AND INVESTMENT.

EXTERNAL..... COMMUNICATE TO PUBLIC, STAKEHOLDERS, INDUSTRY, INVESTORS.

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT – Councillor Don Drake, Councillor Jim Babe, Councillor Diane Harty, Reeve Craig Widmer, Councillor Joan Hughson, Councillor Allen Kuizenga, Deputy Reeve Stacey Barrows.

MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE



CRAIG WIDMER
COUNTY REEVE

On behalf of Council, I am thrilled to introduce the 2023 strategic plan for the County of Forty Mile No. 8. Council will dedicate budget resources to achieve the strategic goals and will rely on the strategic plan to guide decisions that reflect our shared vision, values, and priorities. Our ultimate objective is to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the County of Forty Mile, and to ensure that our region remains an attractive destination for prospective investors and visitors.

Community consultation was an important part of our strategic planning process. This involved residents, stakeholders, and regional partners. As a Council, we are very grateful for the insights and support we received. All input was considered, and Council unanimously approved the homegrown strategic priorities for growth, tourism, community safety, and quality services.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented team of staff members who serve County residents and businesses everyday. They are already implementing Council's strategic direction. Their expertise and commitment are vital to achieve the goals set forth in this plan. We are proud to have such exceptional individuals working tirelessly for the betterment of our County.

We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of organizations, businesses, residents, volunteers, and visitors. These collective efforts help our County, communities, and region to thrive and maintain a welcoming and vibrant character.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we have charted an exciting path towards a prosperous and innovative future.

Warmest regards,

Craig Widmer

REEVE, COUNTY OF FORTY MILE

GREETINGS FROM THE CAO

County Council has set strategic policy direction for the County of Forty Mile No. 8. Council was collaborative and thoughtful throughout the 2023 strategic planning process. They approved a vision and direction for the County after consulting and considering public input. The strategic plan addresses the unique needs of our County residents, businesses, and visitors.

This strategic plan communicates council's intended direction for the County of Forty Mile. It provides a roadmap towards a strong and desirable future. County 'goalposts' are clear through Council's priorities for growth, tourism, community safety, and quality services. This clear strategy will also be helpful to the general public, external stakeholders, and investors. Internally, staff will rely on the strategic plan when drafting recommendations for meaningful action and requests for Council decisions.

Achieving strategic goals requires a team effort. Administration and operational staff are deeply committed to implementing Council's strategy in an effective and efficient manner. I have the privilege of leading a remarkable and dedicated staff complement. This diverse team of professionals takes public service to heart everyday across all County departments.

We are excited to work together with community partners to advance Council's strategic plan and vision for leadership, a high quality of life, and a financially strong region.

Warmest regards,

Keith Bodin

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR,
COUNTY OF FORTY MILE

COMMUNITY PROFILE

COUNTY PROFILE

Located in south-eastern Alberta, and centred between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, the County of Forty Mile No. 8 covers 7,283 square kilometres (2,812 square miles) of slightly rolling hills and deep coulees. The major land uses include large areas of pasture and dry cropland, extensive irrigated areas, numerous recreation areas, and environmentally significant and sensitive areas.

COUNTY STATS

Population	3,471
Avg. Annual Temperature	21.2 °C (HIGH) & -9.2°C (LOW)
Avg. Days of Sunshine	300/year
Airstrips located in County Boundaries	2
Acres of irrigated land	125,000
Townships	78
Average Mill Rate (Residential)	6.48 Mills
Average Mill Rate (Farmland)	11.93 Mills
Average Mill Rate (Non-Residential)	11.18 Mills
Highways	3 & 61
Railways	CP Rail & Redcoat Rail (Shortline Foremost to Stirling)

PROXIMITY TO COUNTY OFFICE

Aden Border Crossing	45 minutes
Coutts Border Crossing	55 minutes
Medicine Hat	1 hour
Lethbridge	1 hour
Wild Horse Border Crossing	1.5 hours

RECREATION

- Bow Island & Foremost Golf Courses
- 40 Mile Park and Golden Sheaf Park
- Milk River Natural Area
- Red Rock Coulee Natural Area
- Pakowki Lake Bird Sanctuary
- Canadian National Historic Windmill Interpretive Centre
- Etzikom Museum
- Kennedy Coulee Ecological Reserve
- Vernon Lake

TOP INDUSTRIES

- Agriculture & Agri-Business
- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Educational Services
- Oil and Gas
- Wind Energy
- Solar Energy

PROCESS

JANUARY ..... IMAGINE FORTY MILE VISIONING WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY ..... DRAFT CONTENT APPROVED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

MARCH-APRIL ..... PUBLIC CONSULTATION (SURVEY, OPEN HOUSE)

APRIL ..... FINE-TUNING; FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS; SURVEY RESULTS

MAY ..... FINAL VERSION PRESENTED

JUNE ..... GRAPHIC DESIGN/PUBLICIZE

JULY-DEC ..... STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

VISION

THE DESIRED FUTURE FOR THE COUNTY. (WHERE ARE WE GOING, AS A COMMUNITY?)

TO FOSTER LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND INNOVATION WHILE PROMOTING A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE IN A VIBRANT, FINANCIALLY STRONG REGION.

MISSION

THE PURPOSE FOR THE COUNTY.

TO PROVIDE A STRONG, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY TO RESIDENTS, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY, THROUGH QUALITY SERVICES, RESPONSIBLE ACTION, AND DEVELOPMENT.

VALUES

1. NATURAL LANDSCAPES
2. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
3. COLLABORATION
4. DIVERSE ECONOMY
5. ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
6. FAMILY
7. FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTIVE NEIGHBOURS
8. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
9. SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY
10. TRANSPARENCY
11. VOLUNTEERISM

SLOGAN

"We are Miles Ahead"

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

COUNCIL IDENTIFIED FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE UPCOMING TERM AND BEYOND.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES WILL GUIDE COUNCIL DECISION MAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

GOALS:

1. Address critical infrastructure needs.
2. Advance internet access and broadband options.
3. Attract renewable energy providers that contribute to the betterment of the community.
4. Exercise environmental stewardship.
5. Advocate for improved mobile phone services.
6. Increase access to potable and non-potable water.
7. Increase supply of serviced, shovel-ready land.
    - Residential, commercial, industrial
8. Promote economic development to attract diverse industry.
    - Growth at or above provincial average
9. Promote industrial growth in transportation corridors. (agri-business, value-add)
10. Promote residential growth in hamlets.
    - Increase housing options

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

TOURISM AND MARKETING

GOALS:

1. Promote historical sites.
2. Promote recreational amenities in the region.
3. Strengthen relationships and collaborate with industry partners, community stakeholders, and Travel Alberta.

SAFETY

GOALS:

1. Ensure responsible land use and reclamation.
2. Promote a safe and healthy work culture for county operations.
3. Maintain safe and robust county transportation network.
4. Strengthen protective services in the region.
    - Fire services, emergency management, enforcement, ambulance

QUALITY SERVICES

GOALS:

1. Advance the asset management plan and capital replacement plan.
2. Continue to integrate innovation and technology in county services.
3. Increase communications, community engagement, and transparency.
4. Provide in-person service and expand on-line service access.
5. To be an employer of choice within the region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SOME KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE REGION INCLUDE:

1. Active community involvement and volunteers
2. Advocacy for highway improvements
3. Athletic and academic accomplishments
4. Broadband strategy – Phase I
5. Consolidated Operations Centre (COC)
6. Diverse agriculture
7. Forty Mile Rail
8. HALO Air Ambulance – collaboration and advocacy for long-term funding
9. Photo contest
10. Regional collaboration
11. Regional water systems to hamlets
12. Renewable energy projects
13. Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) – Village of Foremost restricted airspace for flying and testing drones

Congratulations, 40 Mile!

Photos in this strategic plan showcase local areas and features. Most photos were submitted by area residents as part of the 2022 photo contest.